1400 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. W.
WASHINGTON 16, D. C.

METHODIST PEACE COURIER

BOARD OF WORLD PEACE
740 RUSH STREET, CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

Editorial Board: DANIEL E. TAYLOR, *Editor*
CHARLES F. BOSS (N.Y.)
CARL D. SOULE
HERMAN WILL, JR.

VOL. IV, No. 7 | Special Bulletin Issue | January, 1959

HAIL AND FAREWELL!

Farewell! This is the final issue of the ethodist Peace Courier. This is Farewell! or half a dozen years our modest newsletter as sought to bring you news on the peace front nd Christian interpretation of current events. Now we cease publication under the Courier ame. But Courier is not being suspended; this not an ending. It is being superseded by omething better and finer. A more adequate eriodical, lifting up all the social issues that oncern alert Methodists, is forthcoming. Meanwhile, the editor and staff writers of ourier say "farewell" and express their appre- ation of your readership and of the mutual orrespondence that in many instances has been out-growth.

And, now --this is "30" for Courier.

(Continued from other column)

terest in the causes and concerns of peace ll be heightened in every way.

The price of the new news service will be .00 annually (actually only 40% of the com- ned cost of the three former publications). he first sixteen-page issue will be in the ails to you in about ten days.

Present subscriptions to the Peace Courier ll be extended for the period for which they e currently paid up. If your mailing label w reads Vol. IV, No. 7, your subscription s expired and needs immediate renewal at e $3.00 rate so as not to miss an issue of ONTACT. Why not complete and mail the upon immediately? If your Courier sub- ription still has time to run, your subscrip- on will be extended a full year beyond the esent expiration date.

Hail! We are thrilled to join in the announcement of CONTACT, a new semi-monthly news service jointly produced by the General Boards of Temperance, Social and Economic Relations and World Peace. CONTACT will be published and mailed from the Service Department, Methodist Building, Washington, D.C. News will come to you from the Nation's Capital and the center of national policy and influence.

CONTACT begins publication February 1. It will be sent on a very short dead-line permitting up-to-the-minute news comments. It will carry interpretative articles, as well as several interesting features. It will be beamed primarily to general board members and annual conference and district leaders and other key persons. But it will be of real value also to supplement the emphasis on promotion, materials and methods now found in The Methodist Story and the Christian Social Relations section of The Methodist Woman. Hence, it should prove an invaluable aid to every local Church Commission on Christian Social Relations.

CONTACT will merge three former publications; Clipsheet and the former Contact of the Board of Temperance, as well as our Courier. Moreover, it will contain in every issue an equally important section sponsored by the Board of Social and Economic Relations.

We are proud to take part in this new venture We are proud to announce Roger Burgess as the new editor-in-chief. CONTACT will afford more space for peace news than we had in our former publication. It will reach you twice as often. We believe the stimulation of

Yes, Send Me CONTACT
the New Joint Semi-Monthly Social Action News Service

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

$3.00 per year Cash enclosed ___ Send bill ___

WASHINGTON, D.C.: An important National Conference on World Disarmament and Development will occur in WASHINGTON, D.C. January 23 and 24 at Mt. Vernon Place Methodist Church.

The score or more of sponsoring organizations includes the Board of World Peace and we are endeavoring to have a full delegation of ten persons headed by Daniel Taylor, the General Secretary. Several of the delegation members will be conference chairmen of boards of world peace in the Washington vicinity.

A distinguished series of speakers and leaders will participate, including Senator Hubert Humphrey, Congressmen Porter and Reuss, NBC news correspondent Martin Agronsky, AAUN Executive Director Clark Eichelberger, Norman Thomas, Jerome H. Spingarn and a member of Ambassador Wadsworth's disarmament staff.

The purpose of the conference is adequate high-level interpretation. Resolutions and positions involving the delegates or their organizations are not proposed within the program.

NEW YORK: The World Affairs Center for the United States, in whose building our New York offices are located on the United Nations Plaza, is offering a Fellowship for the study of international organization, open to faculty members who desire to do study and research at the U.N. The applications must be received by Feb. 15.

OLTEN, SWITZERLAND: A resolution by 300 members of the Swiss Reformed Church Pastors' Association opposed the proposal to equip the Swiss Army with nuclear defensive weapons.

"Our obedience to holy scripture," the resolution said, "forbids us to take up weapons which irreparably damage God's creation in a hitherto unknown way."

NEW YORK: Lawrence Giese, Wisconsin Conference Peace Chairman, calls reader attention to the popular Sunday newspaper section titled "This Week Magazine," which held a recent sermon survey listing fourteen topics of which two dealt with peace and international affairs.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: The annual Churchmen Washington Seminar, under auspices of the Washington Office of the National Council of Churches February 3-6, will include nearly 50 Methodist laymen and pastors. In addition to sessions dealing with current matters of legislation and national policy, valuable opportunities of consultation with Senators and representatives are included in the program planning.

CHICAGO: Sound--but also interesting--several new books in the field of war and peace which are exceedingly valuable and well written, have recently appeared. They include the following:

The Ugly American -- Lederer & Burdick
Brighter Than A Thousand Suns -- Jungk
The Protestant and Politics -- Miller
If The Churches Want Peace -- Hill & Lund
Foreign Aid Reexamined -- Wiggins and Schoe
World Peace Through World Law -- Clark &
The Arms Race -- Noel-Baker Sohn
Causes of World War III -- Millis

Several of the more outstanding of these books will be reviewed in the new news servic CONTACT in its early issues.

PARIS: The first world survey of solar radiation will be undertaken by UNESCO and the World Meteorological Organization during the next two years.

CHICAGO: The Committee for Revision of U. Immigration Law calls attention to unsuitable aspects of a proposed change to shift all legislation on immigration, nationality and passports from the House Judiciary Committee to the new Committee on Internal Security, (forn erly Un-American Activities Committee). Seniority will probably continue Congressman Walter, co-author of the McCarron-Walter Ac as chairman.

LONDON: Alastair Buchan writing in the NAT newsletter described favorably the possibilitie of effective anti-submarine warning systems.

Meanwhile, Japanese divers using French equipment have explored the sea at record depth. Their findings reveal unexpected deep ocean currents, increasing concern over radi activity from deposits of radioactive wastes a underwater atomic tests.

LET'S END THE DRAFT

More and more attention is being directed to the fact that the statutory power of the United States government to draft men into the armed forces is due to expire on June 30, 1959. Newspaper reports indicate that military leaders -- despite misgivings and considerable division of opinion over alternatives -- will press for a four year extension of the present legislation with support from the Administration.

Critics of the draft are making strong efforts to guarantee thorough consideration of this issue by Congress. It is very unlikely that any renewal of the authority to draft men can be pushed through as easily or quickly as in 1955.

Six principal arguments are used against the draft:

1. It cannot provide adequately trained men to operate the technical equipment now in use or to meet the problems and dangers posed by modern warfare. A highly mobile, thoroughly trained, and comparatively small professional force is needed today.

2. The present reserve program is based on the mobilization pattern of the last two world wars. It is unrealistic to assume that conditions will permit large numbers of men to be mobilized, equipped, trained, and transported in the event of a sudden nuclear war or even in the case of a limited war in a distant land.

3. The draft law, while supposedly equitable, is actually discriminatory. Men who have sufficient funds and talent to enter college can be deferred even into several years of graduate work. Since fathers are deferred and since the average age of men now being called is about 22 years and nine months, a considerable number escape the draft in that way. Figures in early 1957 indicated that 46% of the entire draft pool proved physically or mentally unfit for military service. Three-fourths or more of all young men do not perform any type of military service.

4. Voluntary enlistment and re-enlistment could be stimulated by higher pay, especially for enlisted men who have received a pittance in recent increases while higher ranking commissioned officers' salaries were advanced substantially. Improved survivor benefits, medical care for dependents, better housing, larger re-enlistment bonuses, dislocation allowances on change of station, government-guaranteed home loans, and better promotion opportunities are other ways which already are being used and are bringing significant results.

5. A greater use of civilian employees for the many non-combat activities of the armed forces could reduce substantially the need for men in uniform. In 1955 the air force replaced 43,000 military personnel overseas by employing 31,000 foreign nationals. This also would eliminate the unnecessary expense of basic military training for these persons and reduce the need for training personnel.

6. To end the draft would eliminate the military indoctrination of large numbers of young people. It would be a step away from the military influence which is already so strong a factor in our national life. In the words of Nation's Business (November, 1958) "Peacetime conscription is deeply repugnant to American traditions."

The Methodist Church, through the action of its General Conferences and several of its general agencies, has consistently opposed universal military training. (The

position is shared by many other church, farm, labor, and educational groups.

Churchmen have certain distinctively religious reasons for their stand on conscription. Believing as they do in the inherent dignity of every person and the importance of human personality, they are not content to see the perpetuation of a system which involves compulsory service and military indoctrination. To accept conscription on a permanent basis (a real danger as the draft is 19 years old) is the first step toward the acceptance of war and armaments as inevitable--a proposition in direct contradiction to the Christian idea of God and man.

The thinking of many members of the House of Representatives and the Senate on this subject will be determined by developments during the next three or four weeks. The proposals of the Pentagon will shortly be made in legislative form. The reception accorded them will be influenced by communications and reactions received by members of Congress from their constituents.

Here is a practical program of action for the consideration of commissions on Christian Social Relations in the local churches:

1. Secure from the Board of World Peace, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois, a packet of materials on the ending of conscription in 1959 (50 cents). Share these with the pastor; study and discuss them in a meeting of the commission.

2. Set aside 30 to 45 minutes during your commission meeting for the individual members to write letters to their representatives and senators. Be sure that envelopes, paper, pen and stamps are available. Mail the letters yourself to be sure they are not mislaid.

3. Ask your pastor to include this subject in a sermon during the next few weeks or to make a special announcement from the pulpit about it. Be sure he has a copy of this COURIER and also of the December issue which quoted the action of the Council of Bishops. Refer him to the January 7, 1959 issue of The Christian Century.

4. Encourage influential members of your church to write their views on the subject to the members of Congress. Furnish them with the material for study (available in quantity at low cost from the Board of World Peace).

5. Make announcements about the issue to groups. Write letters to the editor of local and neighboring newspapers. Suggest to editors that they write editorials and to radio and television station managers that they arrange programs on this question.

Finally, don't let the matter drop. Follow it until Congress either takes action or adjourns at the end of the session. When your senators and representatives reply to your letters, write them again giving further reason for your stand and emphasizing the strength of your conviction.

* * *

"We reaffirm traditional Methodist opposition to any system of peacetime universal military training. We appeal to the United States to give bold leadership looking toward the universal abolition of peacetime conscription by or through the United Nations."

--General Conference of The Methodist Church
Minneapolis, Minnesota - 1956

THE CHINA ISSUE

By this time many readers know that a debate is going on in the church and the na-on concerning the status of mainland China. By reading your newspaper some of you know at the recent Cleveland Conference of the National Council of Churches took a favorable sition on the recognition of China and its representation in the United Nations. Others you have received in the mail material from a certain organization, asking you to sign petition, repudiating the stand of the Cleveland delegates.

In 1949, as soon as its power was consolidated on the mainland, the new government China, calling itself the Peoples Republic of China, asked that its representative be ven the China seat in the U.N. It also desired that its existence be recognized diploma-cally by other nations.

The first and only pronouncement on this issue by the Board of World Peace was ade in 1950: "No decisions are more crucial and imminent than whether this govern-ent should represent China in the United Nations . . . The refusal to recognize this overnment is an evasion of existing fact and can only be conducive to further tension ther than peace." In recent years on two occasions the Board has rejected similar esolutions in close votes.

Various Methodist bodies, however, have spoken to the issue. In 1957 the National onference of Methodist Youth asked the government to review its policies toward the ommunist government of China. During the last three years the following annual confer-nces are among those which have approved resolutions favoring the representation of ainland China in the U.N.: Detroit, Central Pennsylvania, South Iowa, Little Rock, ew England, and Oregon. Last summer the world peace sections of the western, the north entral, and the northeastern briefing conferences supported the same position.

At the close of the recent World Order Conference in Cleveland, the chairman of the onference and the chairman of the Department of International Affairs, the Honorable rnest A. Gross, formerly a member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. and a member Christ Methodist Church in New York City, made a three page personal statement.

He affirmed that, in his opinion, neither the government nor the American public d faced with sufficient candor or courage the dilemma posed by the requirements of a ound China policy. While he admitted that on the one hand the aggressive policy of the ommunist regime fails to accord with standards of international conduct, on the other nd, the cooperation and participation of the Peoples Republic of China is essential to e effective operation of major programs of disarmament, suspension of nuclear tests, nd warnings against surprise attacks.

The official MESSAGE of the Conference, approved by an overwhelming majority of e 500 delegates, a majority of whom were laymen, contained the following material on hina:

"With reference to China, Christians should urge reconsideration by our government its policy in regard to the Peoples Republic of China. While the rights of the people of aiwan and of Korea should be safeguarded, steps should be taken toward the inclusion the Peoples Republic of China in the United Nations and for its recognition by our gov-rnment. Such recognition does not imply approval. These diplomatic relations should onstitute a part of a much wider relationship between our peoples. The exclusion of the ffective government on the mainland of China, currently the Peoples Republic of China,

from the international community is in many ways a disadvantage to that community. It helps to preserve a false image of the United States and of other nations in the minds of the Chinese people. It keeps our people in ignorance of what is taking place in China. It hampers negotiations for disarmament. It limits the functioning of international organizations. We have a strong hope that the resumption of relationships between the peoples of China and of the United States may make possible also a restoration of relationships between their churches and ours."

Reasons for the Position

The following considerations were prominent in the minds of the churchmen assemb at Cleveland: (1) Universality of membership in the United Nations is desirable. This po tion, found in the General Conference statement of our church for 1956, was one of the "nine improvements" of the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals made by the Cleveland Conference of 1945 to the forthcoming Charter Convention in San Francisco. It said, "All nations willing to accept the obligations of membership shall thereupon be made members of the organization."

The United Nations is best thought of not as an exclusive club but as an association of existing nations which have subscribed to the Charter. It is inevitable that member states will have different political philosophies and social patterns. From the point of view of world peace, it is especially desirable to have in the United Nations a nation as large and potentially powerful as China.

(2) China's participation in world programs is important. Last May when the Worl Health Organization met in Minneapolis, several speakers referred sadly to the absence o mainland China. They felt that the control and cure of diseases should include all nations

Even more important than health programs are agreements on the cessation of nucl tests, the maintenance of inspection stations, and the future reduction of armies and weapons. How can we hope to bring China into such arrangements unless we have her par ticipation in the disarmament talks and her membership in the U.N. which must supervise any disarmament program?

(3) Communication between nations is valuable. We have had little communication with mainland China for ten years. There is no trade. There is no travel. There is no exchange of ambassadors. There are no exchanges of ideas in the committee rooms or lounges of the United Nations.

The evils of China can better be challenged by personal confrontation under the bann of the United Nations than by public addresses to veterans' conventions. We have some pr cedent for this in the New Testament for Jesus ate meals with the tax collectors. Commu cation with another nation might be thought of as one of the steps towards loving one's ene

Your participation in the controversy

The National Council of Churches has lifted up an important issue! Let us discuss i in our local churches! This is an opportunity to face the issue such as we have not had fo ten years. You may obtain from the Board of World Peace extra copies of the MESSAGE for 10¢ each.

Let the newly established Commission on Christian Social Relations take the leader ship in the discussion. At one of its meetings, let the chairman read the material from this page. Let there be free and full discussion. At the end of the meeting, let the secre tary summarize the majority position and send it to the Honorable John Foster Dulles, Department of State, Washington 25, D.C. Let the Commission encourage other groups in the church to do the same.